

THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF
CYPERUS DISTINCTUS STEUD.

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TORREY (Ann. Lyc. N. Y. 3: 275–76. 1836) describes under *Cyperus vegetus* Willd.? (the interrogation point is Torrey's) a plant with "nut lanceolate, attenuated to a long point, tumid at the base" and concludes with "This species greatly resembles *C. virens*, but it can be distinguished by its smooth, obtusely triangular culm, and long-pointed nut with a remarkably cellular bulbous base. It is probable that our plant is a distinct species from *C. vegetus* of Vahl and Willdenow."

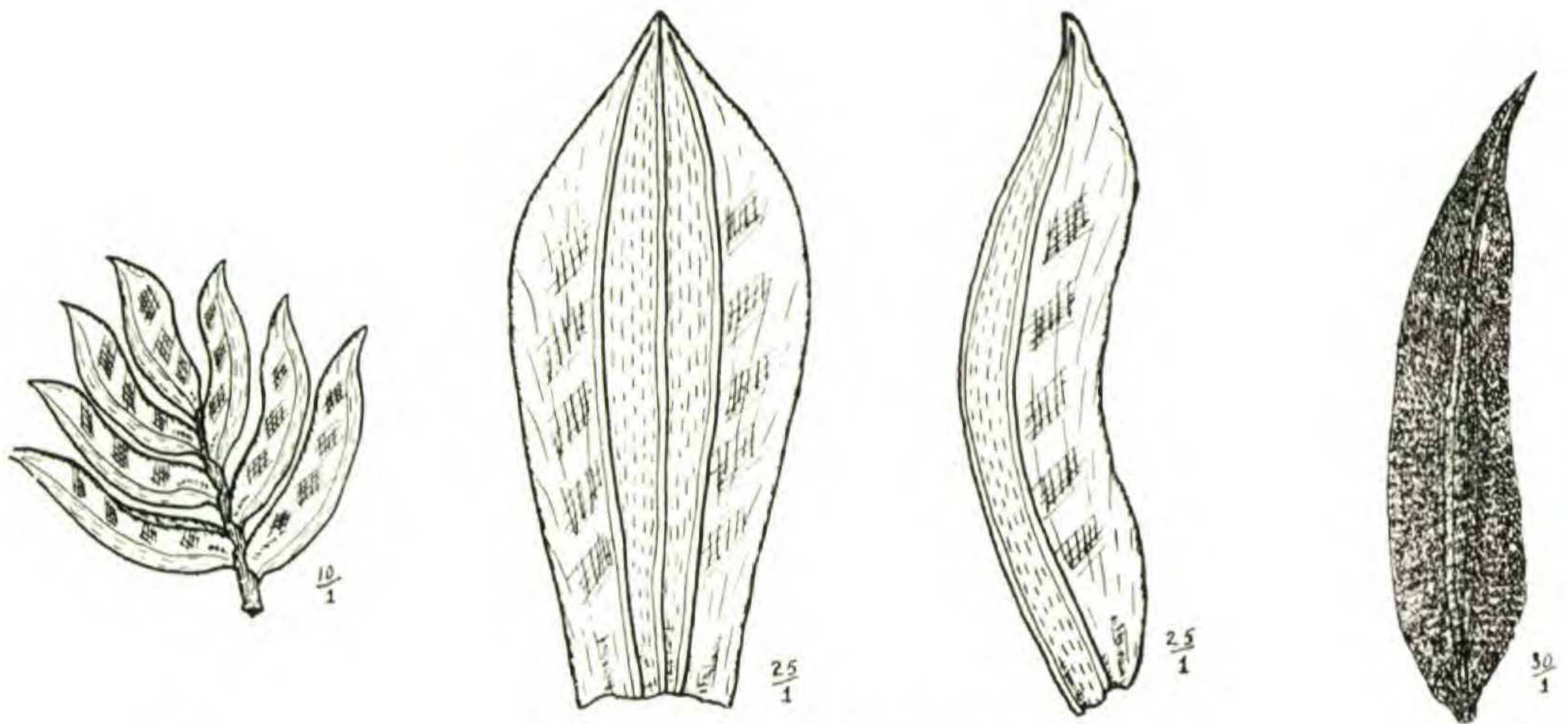
Steudel (Syn. Pl. Cyp. 24. 1855) describes this same plant as: "achenio lanceolato longe acuminato-attenuato, basi sub-bulboso tumidulo" and gives the range as "Carolina Florida Georgia" in accord with Torrey. He very appropriately named this plant *C. distinctus* and distinguished it clearly from *C. vegetus* Willd. and his own *C. pseudovegetus*. *C. distinctus* has a large mass of spongy parenchyma at the base of the achene (the torulose base or spongy hypogynium). This feature is constantly present on all mature achenes. It is entirely wanting in *C. vegetus* and *C. pseudovegetus*. Curiously, while American authors took up the less distinct *C. pseudovegetus*, the much more clean-cut *C. distinctus* never found its way into American literature. It is not mentioned, even as a synonym, in Chapman's Flora of the Southern States (1860, 1883, 1897) nor in Small's Flora of the Southeastern United States (1903, 1913) and Manual (1933). Patterson's Check-list (1892) and Heller's Catalogue, 2nd edition (1900), merely mention *C. distinctus*.

Only one other species of *Cyperus* in the United States has achenes torulose at the base, *C. oxylepis* Nees, recently reported from this country (O'Neill. RHODORA 40: 358. 1938). This peculiar hypogynial structure is very much less developed in *C. oxylepis* than in *C. distinctus*.

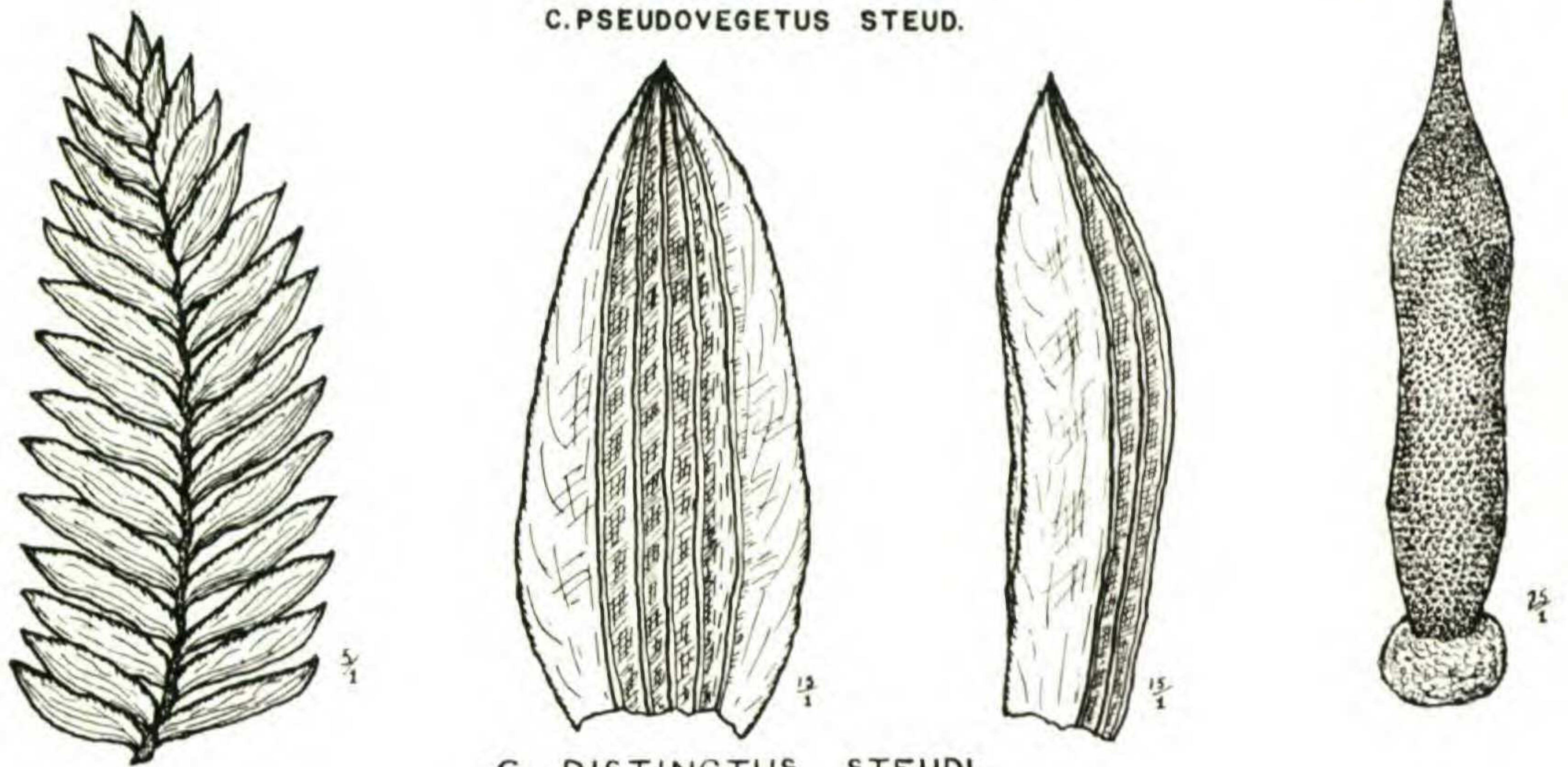
Kükenthal (Pflanzenreich 4²⁰: 178. 1935–36) recognizes *C. distinctus* but cites only one specimen.

These three species may be recognized by means of the following key:

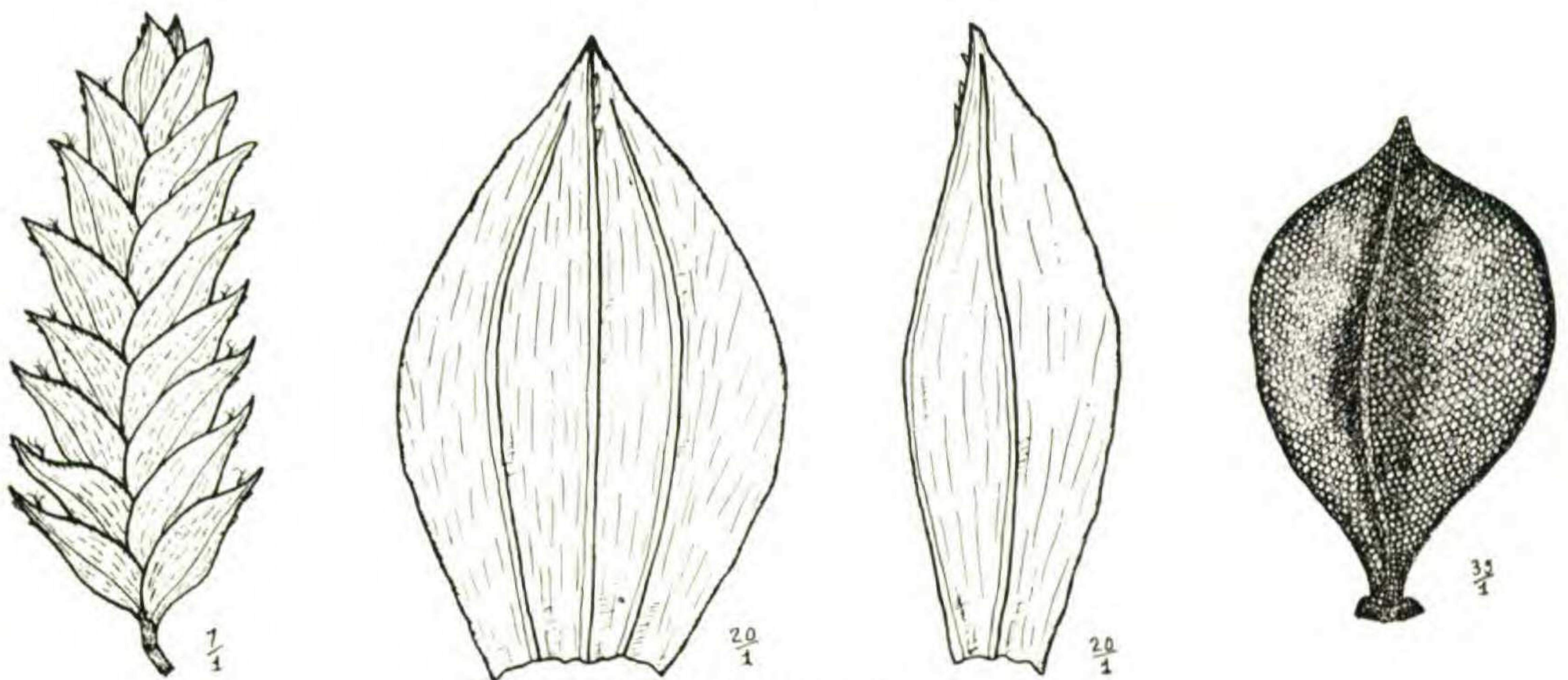
1. Base of achene conspicuously torulose, about 0.35 mm. wide, 0.2 mm. long, body of achene linear-oblong, 1.0–1.2 mm. long, 0.2–0.3 mm. wide, its beak an additional 0.5 mm. long. Spikelets 6–14 mm. long. *C. distinctus* Steud.
- Base of achene not at all torulose. 2.



C. PSEUDOVEGETUS STEUD.



C. DISTINCTUS STEUDL.



C. ERAGROSTIS LAM.

2. Spikelets 2.5–4.0 mm. long; glumes 1.6–2.0 mm. wide, not falcate; style about 1.0 mm. long; stigma about 1.0 mm. long; achene obovoid, 0.6 mm. wide, straight.

(*C. vegetus* Willd.) = *C. Eragrostis* Lam.

Spikelets 10–20 mm. long; glumes 0.8–1.0 mm. wide, falcate; style about 0.5 mm. long; stigmas about 0.5 mm. long; achene linear, 0.25 mm. wide, falcate. *C. pseudovegetus* Steud.

The accompanying figure further illustrate these specific differences.

Although Torrey cites a specimen from North Carolina, I have been unable to find this specimen and have found no subsequent collection from this state. The range of this species appears to be South Carolina, Georgia, peninsular Florida and the Bahamas, i.e. the southeastern coastal plain and the Bahamas. A list of specimens studied follows:

SOUTH CAROLINA: *Gibbes*, Charleston. GEORGIA: *Pyron and McVaugh*, St. Simon Island. FLORIDA: *Curtiss*, Indian River, 3062, 5238; *Eaton*, Miami River, 302; *Garber*, Miami; *Hitchcock*, Marion County, 2103, 2105, 2106, 385; *Fredholm* 6184; *Harshberger*, Lake Okeechobee; *LeRoy* sine loc.; *Lighthipe*, Duval County; *Lovett* 179; *Moldenke*, Pompano, Jacksonville, 5254; *O'Neill* 5263, 7629, 7460; *Williamson*, Jacksonville; *Donnell-Smith*, Tampa; *McAtee* 1691; *Standley* 12620, 19026; *Francis* 26. BAHAMAS ISLANDS: *Britton and Brace* 485, Southwest Bay.

The range of *C. pseudovegetus* is northern Florida to Texas and north to Kansas, southern Indiana, southern Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland and southern New Jersey. *C. Eragrostis* is confined to Oregon and California in this country. It occurs as a fugitive in the eastern states, France, New Zealand, etc.

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NOTES ON NEW ENGLAND ALGAE I: CYCLONEXIS AND ACTIDESMIUM¹

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AMONG the algae there are many species which are considered extremely rare. One of these is *Cyclonexis*, which Stokes (4) found in New Jersey occurring among Sphagnum plants and described in 1886

¹ Contribution from the Laboratories of Cryptogamic Botany and the Farlow Herbarium, Harvard University. No. 166.